

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an apparatus for filtering and separating fluids, including a pressurized housing having a fluid inlet, a retentate outlet and a permeate outlet, a plurality of stacks of membrane filter elements are arranged in the housing adjacent one another and joined such that the fluid is conducted through the stacks of membrane filter element in a series flow pattern and each stack includes a plurality of spaced membrane pillows arranged in spaced relationships such that the fluid is conducted in a meander-like pattern through the stack.